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since it is universally known that the enemy always tries first to capture the pure white animals. The reputation and glory, *'arf w-nowwâs*, of a clan depends chiefly on its white herd, for which reason the *marâtîr* herdsmen are selected from the most prudent and brave youths, and at a time of particular danger this herd is usually driven to a safe hiding place. Furthermore, a pure white animal is killed only when too old or wounded. Its hair is carefully gathered by the women and girls for weaving the finest bags carried on the camel saddles.

PASTURING OF CAMELS

The camels pasture in either small or large herds. A herd up to ten heads is called *ḥeŝle* (pl., *ḥŝel*); a larger one, *ra'ijje* (pl., *ra'âja*) or *ḳaṭî'a* (pl., *ḳaṭ'ân*); if a herd numbers seventy to eighty animals it is known as *zowd*. A little herd owned by a small family is called *ḏwejd*.

Each herd has its own herdsman, *râ'i al-bel*, who is hired for ten months and, according to the size of the herd, is paid either two *meǧîdijjât*, a suit of clothing, and shoes, or merely six *meǧîdijjât*, besides receiving one young male camel, either a *maḫlûl*, a *mafrûd*, or even a *ḥeŝŝ*. It is also his duty to help with the loading and unloading and to bring all the water needed. The herdsman addresses his employer as his host, *mu'azzeb*. Many herdsmen enjoy great esteem, and the hosts undertake nothing without asking their advice.

In the morning the herdsman gets a warm breakfast — usually warmed-over remains from the supper. While he is eating, the herd grazing near by is watched by the host himself, or by his son or daughter, *jeṣaḥḥihen*. Having breakfasted, the herdsman sticks a piece of bread or a handful of boiled wheat into his clothing, throws a pouch filled with water over his shoulder, takes a heavy staff, *maḏrûb*, mounts the leading she-camel, *ḳa'ada*, and begins to praise the pasture in short sentences, which he intones in a drawling manner, *jeḏḏeb lehen*. On hearing his voice, the animals cease grazing and follow his lead. His she-camel, the *ḳa'ada*, keeps always in the rear. Having thus all the animals of his herd before him, the herdsman drives them to the pasture, *jesraḥ* (or *jefalli*) *bel-ba'rîn jamm al-mafla'*. The animals of a herd going to the pasture, *aṯ-ṯarî as-sâreḥ*, usually form a single line,